

IN THE SPECIFICATION

On page 11, starting at line 2, and ending on line 19,  
please amend as follows:

"Referring to FIG. 1 and FIG. 2, FIG. 1 is a front perspective view of a straddle stretching apparatus 10 shown in a down or lowered position according to the invention, and FIG. 2 is a front perspective view of the straddle stretching apparatus 10 in a raised position. The straddle stretching apparatus 10 comprises a padded seat 16, mounted on a cross bar 35 of a support frame 12, a step 38 attached to a lower portion of support frame 12 to assist a user climbing on the seat 16, handle bars 30 for providing user stability when getting on and off the apparatus 10 and when exercising on the straddle stretching apparatus 10. First and second leg supporting wings 26, 28 are provided on opposite sides of the seat 16 for raising and lowering the legs of a user in response to the turning of a handle 33 of a crank 32 extending from a crank housing ~~45~~ 48. The crank housing 48 extends upward at an angle of approximately 45 degrees from a wing drive housing 46 of the support frame 12."

On page 12, starting at line 17, and ending on page 13,  
line 7, please amend as follows:

"Referring to FIG. 3, a rear perspective view of the

straddle stretching apparatus 10 is shown with the first and second leg supporting wings 26, 28 in a partially raised position. The seat 16 having a padded upper surface comprises a cut-out in the rear side for ease of lifting the straddle stretching apparatus 10. The seat 16 mounts on a stud (not shown) protruding from the upper surface of crossbar 35 which is supported by a leg 49.

FIG. 3 shows the step 38 for a user to easily climb on the apparatus 10. The handlebars 30 are conveniently located extending from each side of the crank housing 48 for grasping by a user to maintain balance on the stretching apparatus 10. The seat 16 remains stationary while the first and second leg supporting wings 26, 28 are raised or lowered."

On page 13, starting at line 8, and ending on page 14, line 11, please amend as follows:

"Referring to FIG. 1, FIG. 2 and FIG. 4, FIG. 4 is a perspective view of the raising and lowering mechanism 50 of the invention including a crank 32 and crank rod 51. The crank rod 51 is attached to a universal joint 56 mounted on top of an elongated ~~Aeme~~-threaded rod 60 which is one inch in diameter with a six pitch. A drive bar 34 is positioned on the threaded rod 60. The crank rod 51 is located within the crank housing 48 and the ~~Aeme~~-threaded rod 60 is located within the wing drive housing 46. The

crank rod 51 is attached to the top portion 52 of the universal joint 4656 by a weld joint. Also, the universal joint 56 attaches to the top of the ~~Aeme~~-threaded rod 60 by a weld joint. The upper end of the ~~Aeme~~-threaded rod 60 extends through a drive plate 58, and the drive plate 58 attaches to the wing drive housing 46 for providing a secure connection for the top of the ~~Aeme~~-threaded rod 60 within the wing drive housing 46. The lower end of the ~~Aeme~~-threaded rod 60 is positioned in a thrust bearing 62 to facilitate rotation of the ~~Aeme~~-threaded rod 60. The ~~Aeme~~-threaded rod 60 may be obtained from ~~Aeme~~-ACME<sup>®</sup> Threaded Products, Inc. of Westbury, New York. The thrust bearing 62 may be embodied by Part No. SFR827, manufactured by Dynaroll of San Fernando, California. The crank 32 and crank rod 51 may be embodied by standard steel stock. The universal joint 56 may be embodied by Part No. CJ 6440, manufactured by Curtis, of Springfield, Massachusetts."

On page 14, starting at line 12, and ending on page 15, line 15, please amend as follows:

"Still referring to FIG. 1, FIG. 2 and FIG. 4, the crank 32 is rotated when it is desired to raise the first and second leg supporting wings 26, 28. Rotating the crank 32 causes the ~~Aeme~~-threaded rod 60 to turn, and as it turns, a hex nut 64 moves up or down on the ~~Aeme~~

threaded rod 60. A drive bar 34, which comprises the hex nut 64 in it's center section, has a lower end of a first strut 18 connected to one end of the drive bar 34 or drive extension 34a and a lower end of a second strut 20 connected to a second end of the drive bar 34 or drive extension 34b. These connections are made by common bolts and nuts. ~~The rectangular sections~~ drive extensions 34a, 34b (FIG. 5) of the drive bar 34 are welded to opposite sides of the hex nut 64 and are made of steel. The upper end of the first strut 18 connects to the upper portion of the first wing support frame 22 and the upper end of the second strut 20 connects to the upper portion of the second wing support frame 24. The connections are made by common bolts and nuts. Therefore, when the first and second leg supporting wings 26, 28 are in the down position as shown in FIG. 1 and the crank 32 is rotated, the drive bar 34 moves upward along the threaded rod 60 causing the first and second struts 18, 20 to raise the first and second leg supporting wings 26, 28 toward a horizontal position as shown in FIG. 2. Stretch bands 52, 54 are provided on the sides of the first wing support frame 22 and the second wing support frame 24 to assist the user in stretching exercises."

On page 15, starting at line 16, and ending on page 16, line 5, please amend as follows:

Referring to FIG. 4 and FIG. 5, FIG. 5 is a top view of the ~~Aeme~~-threaded rod 60 and the drive bar 34 attached to the ~~Aeme~~-threaded rod 60 by hex nut 64. The hex nut 64 is in the center of the drive bar 34, and it screws on to the threads 61 of the threaded rod 60. Opposite ends of the hex nut 64 are welded to drive extensions 34a, 34b to form the complete drive bar 34. The hex nut 64 comprises a circular rim 66 on an upper surface. The struts 18, 20 attach to the outer ends of the drive bar 34 by commonly available bolt and nut combinations. The hex nut 64 is commonly available, and it has a thread to match and move along the ~~Aeme~~-threaded rod 60 when the rod 60 is rotated.

On page 16, starting at line 6, and ending on line 18, please amend as follows:

"Referring again to FIGS. 1, 2 and 3, the stretching apparatus is assembled by first attaching the first base support 40 and the second base support 42 to the interconnecting bar 44 of the support frame 12 with bolts 41, 43. Next, the first leg supporting wing 26 and the second leg supporting wing 28 are attached to the hinge support bar 17 located on top of the wing drive housing 46. The attachments are made by the ~~bolts 37, 38~~ rods 36, 37 and cotter pins 39. A base 70 is attached to the bottom of the support frame 12 by self tapping screws. The first and second struts 18, 20 are attached to the

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first and second wing support frames 22, 24 respectively  
by commonly available nuts and bolts."